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TEXAS MEDICAID COUNSELOR PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL CHARGES

(AUSTIN, TEXAS) A 56-year-old San Antonio woman enrolled as a Licensed Professional Counselor in the Texas Medicaid Program faces up to 20 years in federal prison after pleading guilty this morning to federal Health Care Fraud and Money Laundering charges.

Appearing before United States District Judge Harry Lee Hudspeth, **ROBBIN GAIL NICOLOFF** admitted that from February 1996 to May 2001, she collected \$586,316.30 based upon false claims she submitted to the Texas Medicaid Program. Nicoloff provided falsified Medicaid reports for counseling to juveniles and adults suffering from mental, psychoneurotic, or personality disorder.

A 14-month investigation by the Texas Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, Internal Revenue Service – Criminal Investigations, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation revealed that many of the juveniles and adults for which Nicoloff billed did not receive counseling. In addition, many of the juveniles and adults were not suffering from a mental, psychoneurotic, or personality disorder as alleged by Nicoloff, and some had never even met Nicoloff. On June 19, 2001, a search warrant was executed at Nicoloff's residence, where she operated her business. Records seized during the search warrant, including billing documentation and fictitious client files, corroborated that fictitious claims were sent to the Texas Medicaid Program.

Kevin McClendon, Special Assistant United States Attorney and an attorney in the Texas Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, along with Assistant United States Attorney Mark Lane prosecuted this case on behalf of the Government.

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